

Wet Zenith Delay Agreement of Less Than 6 mm Between GPS and WVR Measurements

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A comparison of tropospheric measurements from GPS receivers and Water Vapor Radiometers (WVRs) has demonstrated agreement at < 6 mm of zenith wet path delay. Data from 25 consecutive days during June and July, 1996 were taken at Goldstone, California. The simultaneous use of two GPS receivers (both Allen Osborne Turbo Rogues) and two WVRs (one I-series and one J-series) allowed internal consistency tests. The two GPS receivers and the I-series WVR were located within 50 m of each other, and 300 m from the J-series WVR. Both WVRs performed continuous tip curves, in order to derive wet zenith delay estimates every 3-5 minutes. Total zenith delays were derived from the GPS data every 5 minutes. Accurate surface pressure measurements allowed the wet zenith delay to be derived from the GPS total zenith delay estimates.

The wet zenith delay ranged from 3 cm to 20 cm during the 25 day interval, with a mean of 10 cm. Initial comparisons have yielded a mean GPS-WVR wet May difference of 2 mm, with a standard deviation of 5.8 mm (measurements during cloudy weather were excluded from this comparison, as clouds degrade the accuracy of WVR wet delay estimates). The most recent results will be presented, along with details of the GPS and WVR data processing.

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